



2026 SUMMER ASSIGNMENT

5th Grade English

Mrs. Syracuse

Ground Zero (978-1-338-24575-2)



Hello, future 5th graders! My name is Mrs. Syracuse, and I'm so excited to be your teacher this coming school year. We're going to learn, explore, and have a lot of fun together! To get us started on the right foot, you have a summer reading assignment. This summer, you'll be reading the book *Ground Zero* by *Alan Gratz*. This book will help you get ready for some of the things we'll be discussing in class. Be sure to take your time, enjoy the story, and jot down any thoughts or questions you have. You'll get to share your thoughts and questions with your classmates when we return. This book has a two-part assignment, which is included in this packet. The assignment will be **due in class on the first day of school.**

I can't wait to meet all of you and hear what you think about the book! Have a great summer!

-Mrs. Syracuse

A Note: You are expected to read this book and complete the assignment without any use of AI tools (including the use of any AI note-taking apps during the interview). I want you to be able to read your book, listen to your interview responses, summarize what you've heard, and create your calligram using your own skills.



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SEPTEMBER 11TH INTERVIEW

Directions: After reading *Ground Zero*, conduct an interview with someone you know who lived through the events of September 11th. The interview questions are listed below. Write the main idea(s) you heard from the person you interviewed in the space provided. If you need more space, you can continue on a separate sheet of paper.

Name of the person you interviewed: _____

How do you know this person? _____

1. Where were you on September 11th, 2001?

2. What were your thoughts and feelings when you first heard the news about what had happened?

3. What did you do after you found out about what was happening?



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4. Did you learn anything from the attacks of September 11th?

5. How did your life change after the attacks of September 11th?

6. Is there anything else you would like to share about your memories from that day?

